

World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel

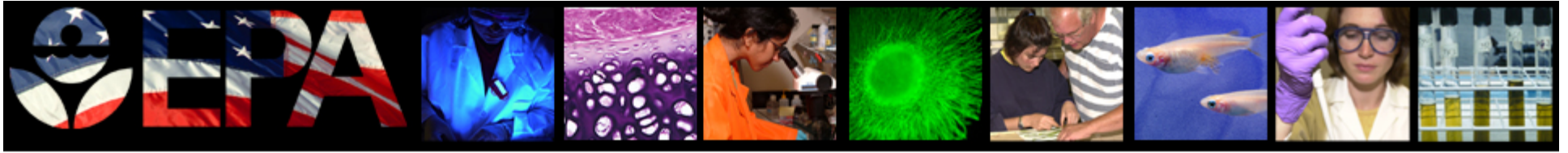
Dr. Paul Gilman

Science Advisor

United States Environmental Protection Agency

*First Meeting
March 31, 2004*

U n i t e d S t a t e s E n v i r o n m e n t a l P r o t e c t i o n A g e n c y

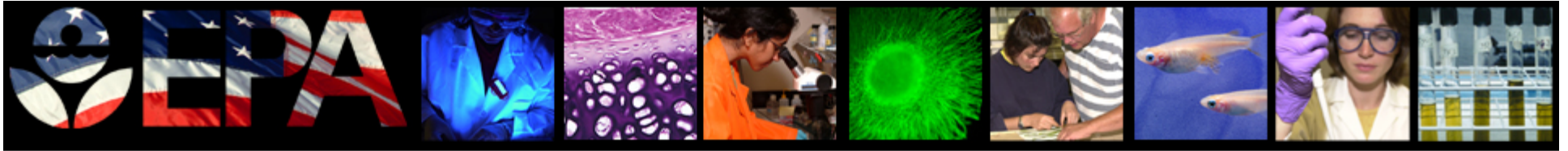


Purpose:

- To obtain greater input on ongoing efforts to monitor the situation for New York residents and workers impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center, EPA will convene an expert technical review panel

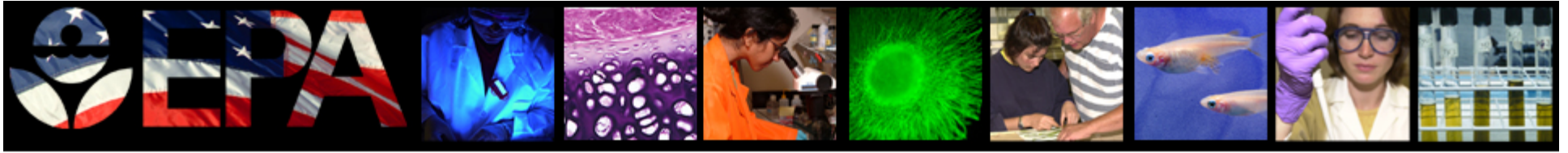


- to help guide EPA's use of the available exposure and health surveillance databases and registries to characterize any remaining exposures and risks, identify any unmet public health needs, and recommend any steps to further minimize the risks associated with the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks.

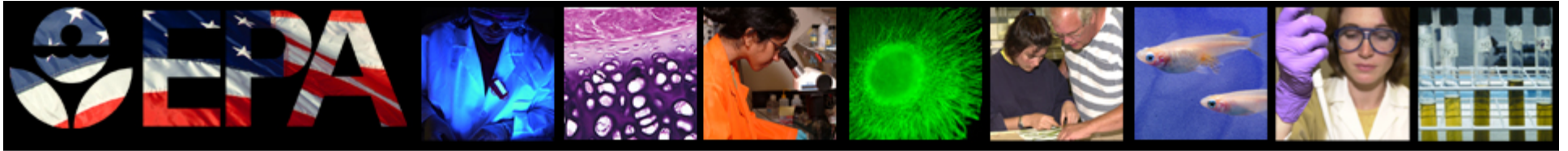


Representation:

- EPA will organize and lead this panel of experts, with representation from the federal agencies directly involved in the air quality response and monitoring,



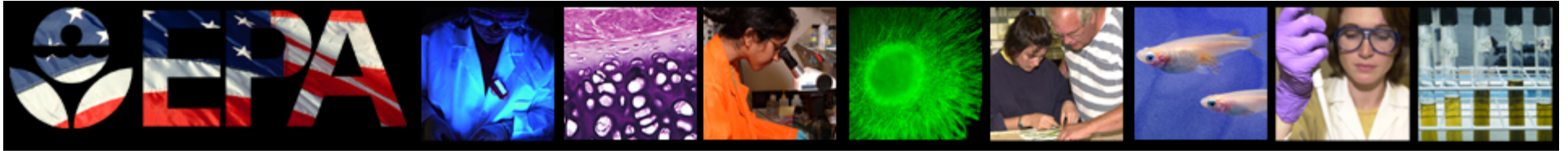
- The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and outside experts.



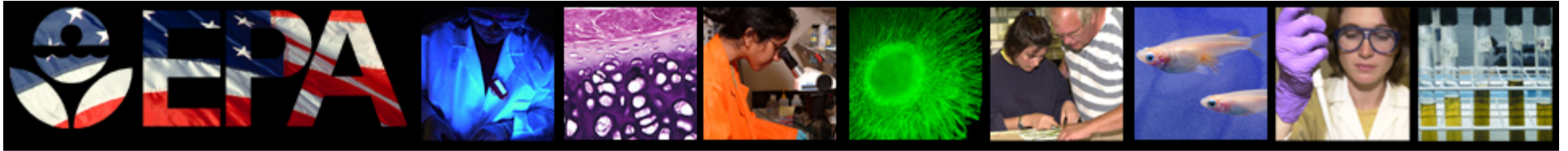
Charge: The panel will:

Within 3-6 Months:

- Review post-cleaning verification sampling in the residential areas included in EPA's Indoor Air Cleanup to verify recontamination has not occurred from central heating and air conditioning systems;

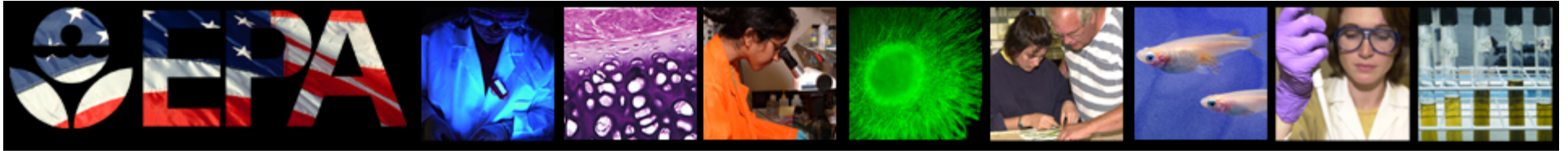


- Review the *World Trade Center Residential Confirmation Cleaning Study*, which concluded asbestos was an appropriate surrogate in determining risk for other contaminants.

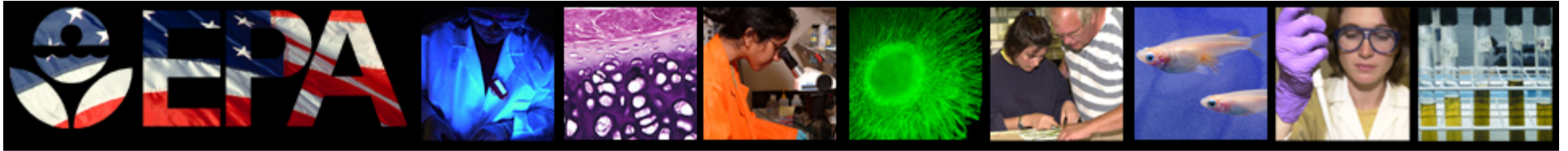


Within 18-24 months:

- Identify areas where the health registry could be enhanced to allow better tracking of post-exposure risks by workers and residents.



- Review and synthesize the ongoing work by the federal, state and local governments and private entities to determine the characteristics of the WTC plume and where it was dispersed,

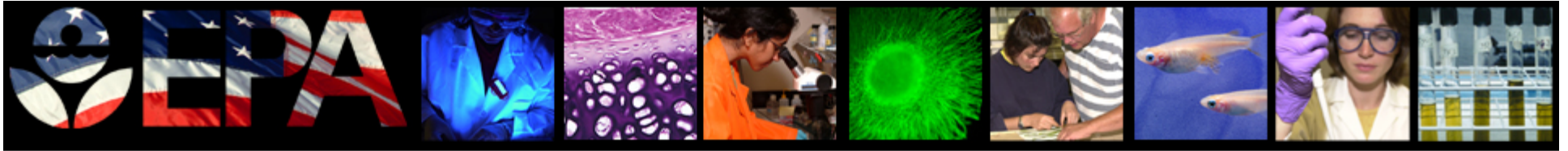


- including the geographic extent of EPA and other entities' monitoring and testing, and recommend any additional evaluations for consideration by EPA and other public agencies.

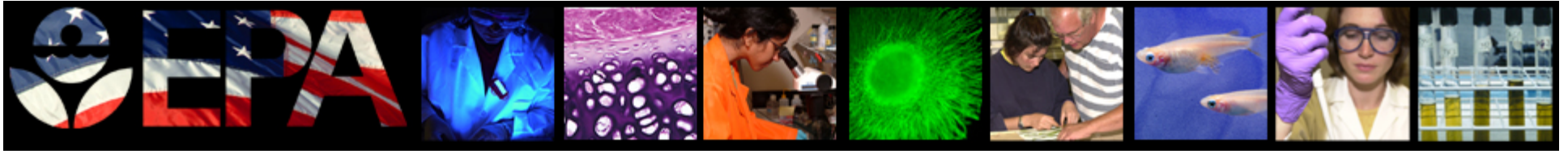


Operating Principles:

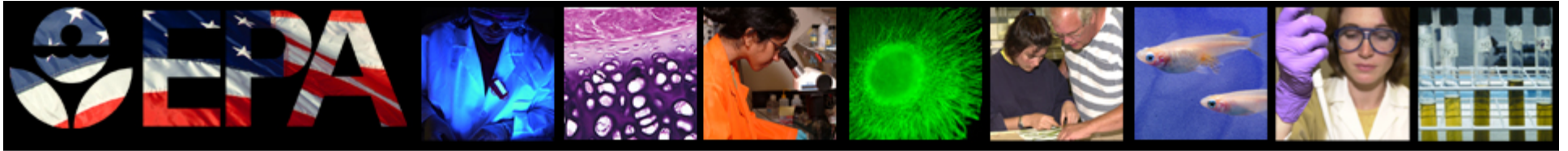
The technical expert panel will be guided by the following principles--



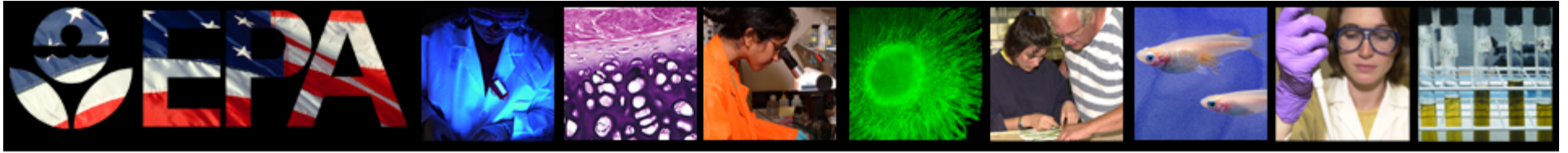
- All meetings of the panel will be held in the New York metropolitan area, open to the public (except where the public interest requires otherwise), and announced in advance.



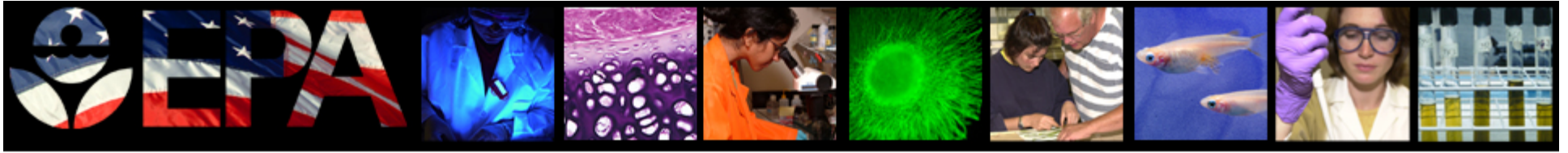
- The panel will be chaired by an EPA representative, and a non-government member of the panel will serve as vice-chair. The chair will consult with the vice-chair in the preparation of all panel documents, including meeting agendas and meeting minutes.



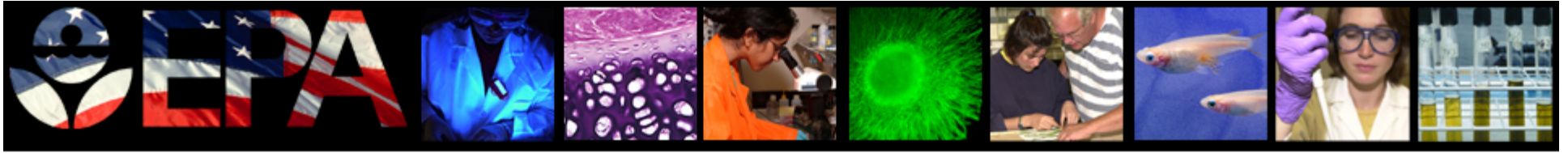
- Non-government members of the panel will represent themselves and not their respective institutions.
- Non-government members of the panel will be asked to disclose possible conflicts of interest.



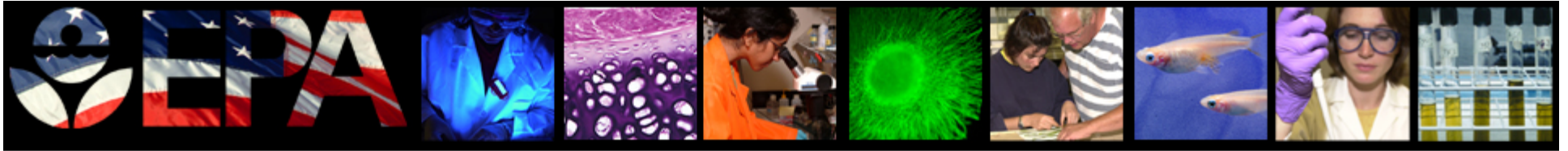
- Panel members will be asked for their individual comments and recommendations regarding the charge. There will be no attempt to reach consensus or to develop group recommendations within the panel which might otherwise stifle individual opinions.



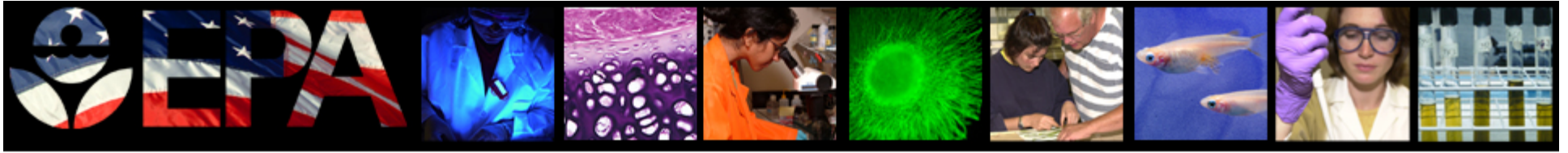
- The panel members may provide comments and recommendations in writing and verbally at public meetings. They will not make decisions or develop group positions.



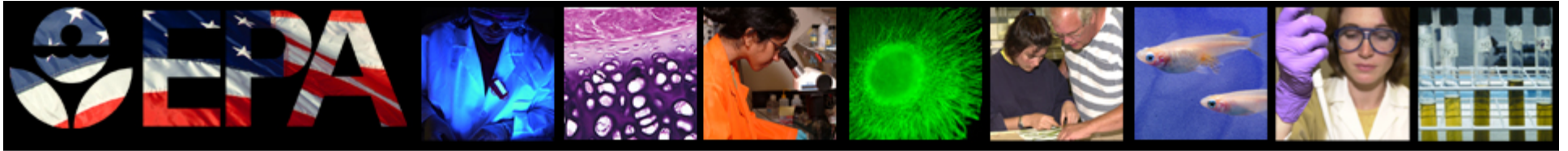
- It will be the responsibility of EPA and other appropriate state and local organizations to formulate responses to the individual recommendations.



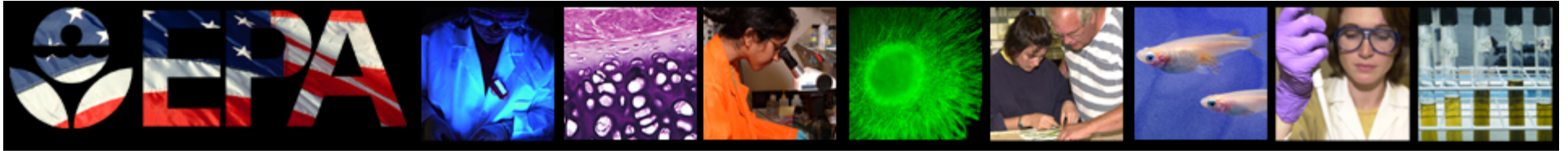
- *Ex officio* panel members, including the community liaison, will receive all panel materials in advance of meetings, will be able to submit comments and recommendations in writing, and will be able to briefly summarize their comments and recommendations verbally at appropriate times during panel meetings.



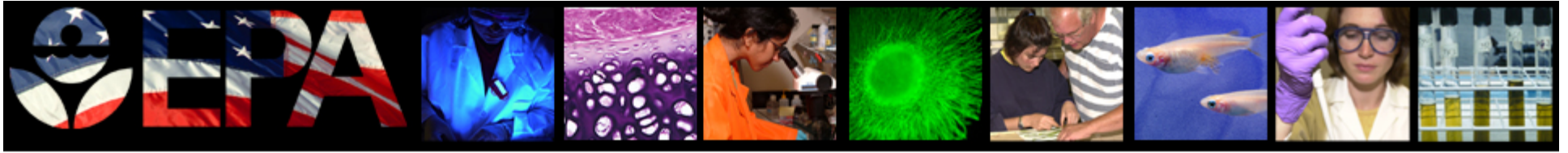
- Detailed minutes of each panel meeting will be kept. The minutes will include all individual recommendations, whether submitted verbally or in writing.



- Except where the public interest requires otherwise, panel documents will be made available on the Web (to the extent technically possible) for contemporaneous public inspection.



- A public comment period will be provided during each meeting. The public may also submit written comments that will be considered by the panel members.



- Composition of the panel may change as required for the different phases of the charge.



- EPA will brief interested members of the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut delegations and responsible Congressional committees every other month or as requested throughout this process.